

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 8982

FOR AF DISTRIBUTION ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS PLAN FOR KENYA

REF: (A) NAIROBI 8112 (B) STATE 145568

1. THESE COMMENTS SUPPLEMENT THOSE IN REF A WITH WHICH OTHERWISE
USAID HAS NO SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES.

A. PARAGRAH A.3., "ECONOMIC RIGHTS, FOURTH SENTENCE;
GOK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AIMED AT CREATING EMPLOYMENT
PRINCIPALLY OPERATE IN RURAL NOT URBAN AREAS.
B. IBID-CONTROLS ON PRICE OF BASIC FOODSTUFFS HAVE HAD MIXED
IMPACT ON POOR THOUGH FAVORING RURAL PRODUCERS, SINCE INCREASES IN
PRODUCER PRICES PAID FOR MAIZE, RICE, MILK, ETC., OVER LAST SEVERAL
YEARS HAVE ALL BEEN PASSED ON TO CONSUMERS. ALSO, IN CASE BEEF,
FOR EXAMPLE, DOMESTIC PRICES HAVE BEEN KEPT BELOW EXPORT PARITY
AND HAVE, THUS, CONSTITUTED SUBSIDY OF HIGH-INCOME CONSUMERS
AT EXPENSE LOW-INCOME PRODUCERS. THROUGHOUT LAST THREE YEARS COST
OF LIVING INDEX(CALCULATED FOR URBAN WAGE EARNERS ONLY)
HAS RISEN HIGHER FOR LOW-INCOME GROUP THAN FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH-
INCOME CATEGORIES. GOK WAGES POLICY HAS FAVORED LOW-INCOME
(URBAN) GROUP BY GRANTING THIS CATEGORY WAGE EARNERS SALARY
INCREASES MATCHING INFLATIONARY INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING WHILE
RESTRICTING WAGE INFLATIONARY INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING WHILE
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RESTRICTING WAGE INCREASES TO HIGHER-INCOME GROUPS TO LESS
THAN SUCH INCREASES. THIS POLICY HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED
TOTALLY SUCCESSFULLY. IT MAY BE THAT AS RESULT CHANGES IN
PRODUCER PRICES AND WAGES POLICY THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCOME
REDISTRIBUTION FROM URBAN TO RURAL AREAS WHERE VAST BULK OF KENYA'S
POOR RESIDE. IT LESS CLEAR WHAT HAS HAPPENED WITHIN URBAN AND
RURAL GROUPS, RESEPECTIVELY, AS TO POSSIBLE DISTRIBUTIVE

EFFECTS THESE POLICIES.

2. THEREFORE SUGGEST THIS SENTENCE BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS: QTE THESE POLICIES INCLUDE ANNUAL REVIEW AND, IF NECESSARY, INCREASES IN FARM-GATE PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCE, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AIMED AT EMPLOYMENT GENERATION IN RURAL AREAS AND IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR SMALLHOLDERS, AND WAGES POLICY WHICH HAS ATTEMPTED TO PROVIDE WAGE INCREASES EQUAL TO RISES IN COST OF LIVING ONLY TO LOW-INCOME WAGE EARNERS WHO ARE GROUP HARDEST HIT BY INFLATION. END. QTE.
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